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09/463,225	02/18/2000	ROBERT SCHWARTZ	ASCOP058USNP	6055

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EXAMINER

VIG, NARESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3629

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/463,225

Applicant(s)

SCHWARTZ ET AL.

Examiner

Naresh Vig

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NW

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to response received by the office on 16 July 2004 to the office action mailed on 13 April 2004. There are 20 claims, claims 1 – 20 pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Originally file specification on 18 March 2000 does not teach host data center is adapted to solicit quotes from each delivery service provider and provide the quotes to the user.

Appropriate correction is required. In response to the office action, applicant must state "No New Matter Has Been Added".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. International Published Application WO 98/13790 hereinafter known as Schwartz in view of Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 further in view of an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To A TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba.

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Schwartz teaches system and method for printing postal indicia at more than one location. Schwartz teaches:

a host and more than one customer station, the host comprising at least one postal security device (PSD) [Fig. 6b, 7a],

said postal security device comprising a secure housing, cryptographic means [claim 1], and

said host and each customer station communicatively coupled [Fig. 6b, 7a];

Schwartz does not teach nonvolatile memory, the nonvolatile memory comprising an accounting register indicative of postage value. However, Schwartz teaches PSD contains accounting register [page 5, 6]. Official notice is taken that it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that it is a design choice to memory like magnetic disk, NVRAM etc. to maintain the information for the available postage.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz and use nonvolatile memory to maintain the available postage information for disaster recovery.

Schwartz does not teach customer station comprising a television, a set-top box communicatively coupled with the television, a remote control communicatively coupled with the set-top box, and a printer communicatively coupled with the set-top box, said printer disposed to print labels; However, Kohorn teaches tokens and coupons are generated in a television viewer's home into a home generating unit [abstract].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz as taught by Kohorn to use the television network to dispense the label at user's home or office.

Schwartz in view of Kohorn does not teach a set-top box communicatively coupled with the television, a remote control communicatively coupled with the set-top box. However, Toshiba teaches convergence of computing and home entertainment. Toshiba teaches each said customer station comprising a television, a set-top box communicatively coupled with the television, a remote control communicatively coupled with the set-top box; host and each customer station communicatively coupled; remote controller with set-top box.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn as taught by Toshiba to manage the accounting and dispensing of postage to clients by controlling the distribution of set-top box. For example, cable TV operators provide their set-top boxes to users to allow control the transmission of program signals to authorized users only. Toshiba teaches PC card slot for USB connectors. Official notice it taken that it would have been known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that USB printers were commercially available (e.g. Epson Stylus Color 740). Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teach printer communicatively coupled with the set-top box (computer), said printer disposed to print labels [Schwartz Fig. 7b];

Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teach:

responsive to information provided by a customer at one of said customer locations via the remote control for ordering enhanced television services at the television (convergence of computing and home entertainment);

responsive to information provided by the customer at the remote control at one of said customer stations for sending to the host a first message requesting a postal indicium and identifying the customer station associated therewith, means responsive to the first message for presenting to the postal security device a request for the postal indicium;

responsive to the generation by the postal security device of a second message indicative of the postal indicium for transmitting information indicative of the postal indicium to the set-top box; and means responsive to said information indicative of the

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postal indicium for causing said printer to print said postal indicium on a label [Schwartz claim 1];

comprising accounting within said host storing information indicative of postage value printed at each of said customer stations [Schwartz Fig. 8];

responsive to the message identifying the customer station for modifying the stored information associated with the customer station within said accounting means (for example, it is known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that when a user orders PPV, service provider is capable of identifying the customer station to bill the customer for the program ordered);

said postal security device disposed to make a record in its nonvolatile memory indicative of the postage value communicated in said postal indicium [Schwartz page 5, 6].

Regarding claim 5, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teach host system is remotely located from the customer station.

Regarding claim 10, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teach postal security devices in the host are shared among the customers [Schwartz Fig. 7a].

Regarding claim 11, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teach an operator of the host maintains a set of accounts with respect to each customer, the accounts including accounting information for each customer.

Regarding claim 15, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teaches set-top box further comprises an Internet communication device adapted to transmit and receive information between the customer station and the host over the Internet.

Regarding claim 17, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teaches set-top box comprises a web television interface.

Regarding claim 18, Schwartz teaches system and method for printing postal indicia at a location remote from a postal security device comprising accessing a host data center from a remote location via a communication link, wherein the host data center includes at least one the postal security device adapted to produce cryptographically secure postal indicia [Fig. 8, claim 1]. Schwartz does not teach accessing comprises calling up a submenu on a viewing unit at the remote location and inputting identifier information responsive to queries on the submenu. However, Kara teaches menu interface for communicating with the users [Fig. 4a – 4n].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara and use menu interface for communicating with the user to make the system more user friendly.

Schwartz in view of Kara teaches:

entering a request for a postal indicia; and

receiving the requested postal indicia from the host data center and printing the indicia on a label via a printer.

Claims 6 – 9, 13, 14 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. International Published Application WO 98/13790 hereinafter known as Schwartz in view of Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 further in view of an article “Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To A TV” hereinafter known as Toshiba and Kara US Patent 6,233,568.

Regarding claim 6, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teach remote control, upon activation by the user to take an action. Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach postage submenu relating to postage on a display of the television, the postage submenu adapted to prompt the user to enter identification data

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associated with the request for postal indicia. However, Kara teaches menu interface for communicating with the users [Fig. 4a – 4n].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara and use menu interface for communicating with the user to make the system more user friendly.

Regarding claim 7, Schwartz on view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach identification data includes a destination address and a zip code. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that when a person wants to mail a package, mail piece includes destination address and zip code when the mail piece is to be mailed in USA. Kara teaches that information about the transaction, such as the debit or credit amount and/or other transaction information that is postage or shipping related, such as the addressee's ZIP code, the addressor's ZIP code, the recipient's address and name, the mail class, etc., are uploaded to the device from the PC [col. 4, lines 38 – 43].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz on view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara to be able to print shipping label for user.

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Regarding claim 8, Schwartz on view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach human readable identifier information related to the mailpiece is printed on the label in addition to the indicia. However, Kara teaches human readable information related to the mail piece printed on the label [Fig. 9].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz on view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara to print shipping label for the user.

Regarding claim 9, Schwartz on view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach a weighing scale that is communicatively coupled to the set-top box, the weighing scale being adapted to determine a mass of a mail piece needing the indicia and communicate the mass information to the host for determining an amount of postage to be included in the indicia. However, Kara teaches a weighing scale communicatively coupled to a computer system (set-top box) [Fig. 1A] to provide automated input of the weight of a postal item.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz on view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara to automate input of weight of postal item.

Regarding claim 13, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach host is communicatively linked to a plurality of delivery service providers, and the host is further adapted to retrieve and transmit price comparison information to the television display related to the request for postal indicia. However, Kara teaches Host communicatively linked to a plurality of delivery service providers, and further adapted to retrieve and transmit price comparison information to the display related to the request for postal indicia [claim 1, Fig. 8A].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Toshiba in view of Kara as taught by Kara to help user select the shipping carrier.

Regarding claim 14, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach a postal security device associated with each of the plurality of delivery service providers. However, Kara teaches PSD associated with each of the plurality of delivery service providers to be able to communicate their rates to the user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara to be able to securely communicate with the service providers for extracting the current information to be presented to the user.

Regarding claim 16, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach connection to a plurality of delivery service providers and the host serves as a single point of contact between the customer station and each delivery service provider. However, Kara teaches host to be able to display comparison rates to the user from plurality of delivery service providers [Fig. 8]. Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that Kara has means and method to get the information from plurality of delivery service providers.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Toshiba in view of Kohorn as taught by Kara to automate the pricing updating process.

Regarding claim 20, Schwartz teaches system and method for printing cryptographically secure indicia. Schwartz teaches:

a host data center remotely located from at least one customer site, the host data center including at least one postal security device adapted to generate postal indicia and adapted to be shared among customer sites [Fig. 8];

Schwartz does not teach a television based communications interface located at the customer site, the communications interface adapted to allow cryptographically secure postal indicia to be received from the host data center at the customer site. Kohorn teaches television based communication (responded to earlier in response to

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claim 1) Schwartz in view of Kohorn does not teach communication medium located at customer site adapted to allow cryptographically secure postal indicia. However, Toshiba teaches set-top box with personal computer capability (responded to earlier in response to claim 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Schwartz to have a cryptographically secure communication for printing indicia to minimize illegal production of postal indicia.;

Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teaches

a printing device at the customer site adapted to allow the received indicia to be printed;

an accounting device in the host data center adapted to account for postal indicia sent to each of the customer sites when a single postal security device is shared among a plurality of customer sites.

a remote data entry unit at the customer site adapted to allow a user to enter a request for postal indicia into the communications interface. Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach activating a pop-up menu and selecting a function indicated on the menu, the function including transmitting a user identifier together with a communications interface identifier to the host data center. However, Kara teaches menu interface for communicating with the users [Fig. 4a – 4n].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba as

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taught by Kara and use menu interface for communicating with the user to make the system more user friendly.

Regarding claim 20, Schwartz teaches system and method for printing cryptographically secure indicia. Schwartz teaches:

a host data center remotely located from at least one customer site, the host data center including at least one postal security device adapted to generate postal indicia and adapted to be shared among customer sites [Fig. 8];

Schwartz does not teach a television based communications interface located at the customer site, the communications interface adapted to allow cryptographically secure postal indicia to be received from the host data center at the customer site.

Kohorn teaches television based communication (responded to earlier in response to claim 1) Schwartz in view of Kohorn does not teach communication medium located at customer site adapted to allow cryptographically secure postal indicia. However, Toshiba teaches set-top box with personal computer capability (responded to earlier in response to claim 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Schwartz to have a cryptographically secure communication for printing indicia to minimize illegal production of postal indicia.;

Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba teaches

a printing device at the customer site adapted to allow the received indicia to be printed;

an accounting device in the host data center adapted to account for postal indicia sent to each of the customer sites when a single postal security device is shared among a plurality of customer sites.

a remote data entry unit at the customer site adapted to allow a user to enter a request for postal indicia into the communications interface. Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach activating a pop-up menu and selecting a function indicated on the menu, the function including transmitting a user identifier together with a communications interface identifier to the host data center. However, Kara teaches menu interface for communicating with the users [Fig. 4a – 4n].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba as taught by Kara and use menu interface for communicating with the user to make the system more user friendly.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. International Published Application WO 98/13790 hereinafter known as Schwartz in view of Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 further in view of an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To A TV" hereinafter known

as Toshiba, Canon Multipass User's Manual hereinafter known as Canon, Kara US Patent 6,233,568 and an article FaxBack, Inc. Merges Its Flagship Fax-On-Demand Application With NET SatisFAXtion™ Fax Server hereinafter known as Faxback.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, in the originally filed application on 18 March 2000, applicant recites:

"The printer 81 used for such coupons could be employed to print postage indicia on label stock. The set-top box 70, printer 81, television 83, and remote control 88 are collectively termed the customer station" [page 3].

"the Host Data Center 65 communicates with the customer station at the customer's location by means of an enhanced fax machine 90 which is connected to the Internet 60 or other communications channel by an appropriate means. The fax machine is, of course, connected with the public switched telephone network and responsive to incoming fax telephone calls for receiving and printing fax messages. The fax machine interfaces with a printer 91 printing on label stock 92, much like the printer 81 and label stock 82. An optional scale 93 is connected with the fax machine 90. Optionally a personal computer 94 may be connected with the fax machine 90 to permit easy user inputs and display of information from the Host Data Center 65" [application page 7, Fig. 1 (sharing communication line between fax and computer, label 90 – 94)]. Applicant has not clearly defined:

how the customer station, scale and printer (91) are communicatively linked together,

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whether the host transmits the postage to the customer station, or, to the fax machine. communicates with the fax machine,

capability and configuration of enhanced fax machine

whether the fax machine defined on page 7 is the enhanced fax machine, or, it is a separate device.

how optional scale communicates with the fax machine or the customer station.

For the sake of examination, examiner reads enhanced fax machine as a commercially available fax machine known to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made, and, customer station as defined on page 3 of the originally filed application.

Schwartz teaches system and method for printing postal indicia at more than one location, said system comprising a host and more than one customer station, the host comprising at least one postal security device [Fig. 6b, 7a].

said postal security device comprising a secure housing, cryptographic means [claim 1].

said host and each customer station communicatively coupled;

Schwartz does not teach nonvolatile memory, the nonvolatile memory comprising an accounting register indicative of postage value. However, Schwartz teaches PSD contains accounting register [page 5, 6]. Official notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that it is a design choice to use memory like magnetic disk, NVRAM etc. to maintain the information for the available postage.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz and use nonvolatile memory to maintain the available postage information for disaster recovery.

Schwartz teaches customer workstations as PCs [Fig. 7b]. Schwartz does not teach each said customer station comprising a fax machine and a printer communicatively coupled with the fax machine, said printer disposed to print labels; said fax machine communicatively coupled with the public switched telephone network (PSTN); each said fax machine further comprising means responsive to incoming fax telephone calls for receiving and printing fax messages; Official notice it taken that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that fax machines are communicatively coupled with PSTN responsive to incoming telephone fax calls for receiving and printing fax messages. However, Canon teaches that a printer (Multipass) can be communicatively coupled to customer station. Multipass comprises a fax machine, printer, scanner and copier. Customer can use Multipass to print on plurality of print medium, Canon printer can be communicatively coupled with the public switched telephone network [page 1-4, 1-5]. Can teaches that Multipass can be connected to external devices [page 1-5]. Multipass is responsive to incoming fax telephone calls for receiving and printing fax messages [chapter 5]. Canon teaches Desktop Manager [page 62] to communication with fax machine.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz as taught by Canon as taught by

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Canon to use the customers existing infrastructure and save cost to customer getting additional communication lines.

Schwartz in view of Canon teaches:

responsive to information provided by the customer at one of said customer stations for sending to the host a first message requesting a postal indicium and identifying the customer station associated therewith, means responsive to the first message for presenting to the postal security device a request for the postal indicium;

means responsive to said information indicative of the postal indicium for causing said printer to print said postal indicium on a label;

accounting within said host storing information indicative of postage value printed at each of said customer stations; and means responsive to the message identifying the customer station for modifying the stored information associated with the customer station within said accounting means;

postal security device disposed to make a record in its nonvolatile memory indicative of the postage value communicated in said postal indicium.

Schwartz in view of Canon does not teach responsive to the generation by the postal security device of a second message indicative of the postal indicium for transmitting information indicative of the postal indicium to the fax machine; However, Faxback teaches fax server.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz in view of Canon as taught by Faxback to use the fax machine as a producing means of the postal indicia.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. International Published Application WO 98/13790 hereinafter known as Schwartz in view of Kohorn US Patent 5,128,752 further in view of an article "Toshiba Introduces Home PC Vision Connect For Easy Connection To A TV" hereinafter known as Toshiba and Merjanian US Patent 5,920,642.

Regarding claim 12, Schwartz in view of Kohorn and Toshiba does not teach set-top box further includes a fingerprint reader adapted to authenticate the user to the host. However, Merjanian teaches a method for commerce through a set-top box in which fingerprint data is employed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Toshiba in view of Kohorn, Kara and Ryan as taught by Merjanian and use fingerprint reader for authentication to further protect the device from unauthorized use due to the stolen identification password / code.

Conclusion

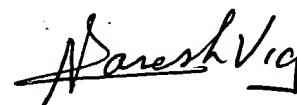
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 CFR '1.111 (c) to consider the references fully when responding to this office action.

1. Epson Stylus COLOR 740.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is 703.305.3372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00 (Alt Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703.308.2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Naresh Vig
Patent Examiner
October 18, 2004